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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
MEXICO

IPF:(1992-1996) $ 7 346 000

(MEX/93/027) - International Cooperation for Social, Indigenous and Non-Governmental Organizations

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	7 July 1993
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Directorate General for Technical and Scientific Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 400 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 485 400
Total UNDP budget:	$ 885 400

Project background

Relations between NGO and government authorities in Mexico have long been a source of friction. In an effort to improve the dialogue between these two sectors, and also to advocate for an enhanced role of the NGOs in the Mexican society, UNDP/Mexico sponsored in September 1992 a workshop "Civil Society and International Cooperation", attended by representatives of 13 NGOs networks, government and multilateral agencies. The objective was to learn what problems existed and what dialogue could be established among NGOs, the Government, and multilateral agencies, and to discuss concrete possibilities of collaboration among the three parties. This workshop was a milestone; and for the first time, representatives from the three parties sat around a table to hold a frank and open discussion.

The workshop resulted in a consensus decision to initiate a new form of relationship between NGOs, government and multilateral institutions through a UNDP project focused on the strengthening of social, indigenous, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) so that civil society could broaden the scope of participation in the development process. On the basis of this objective a tripartite working group was established to define the objectives and activities of the project document, through a process of consultations and transparent negotiations among the parties involved. The present approval is in fact the first result of this consensus building process.

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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Description of project

The project will respond to the priority of the National Development Plan to "strengthen channels of dialogue with civil society, and to promote social participation in development issues"[2/]. It also falls within two of the areas of concentration of the Fifth Cycle Country Programme: (1) water and environment; and (2) poverty and population; and three of UNDP's priority areas namely, poverty eradication and grass-roots participation in development, environmental problems, and women in development. In addition it supports the basic theme of the international year of indigenous populations (1993).

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) strengthen the NGOs and their work through an extensive training programme that will be defined as an activity of the project itself; (b) improve the quality of the dialogue among NGOs and with governmental institutions and multilateral organizations, in order to achieve greater support for their activities and to ensure that others benefit from their experience; and (c) mobilize resources to provide reimbursable financing to productive NGO projects and to finance social and environmental NGO projects. As an innovative feature the project will receive parallel financing from OAS to support this last objective.

To accomplish the above, three types of tripartite committees will be established: (i) Advisory Committees; (ii) Coordinating Committee; and (iii) a General Committee. The operational and administrative activities of the project will be performed by a Technical Secretary who will be recruited for that purpose.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 86 work-months of administrative support personnel; 172 work-months of local professional personnel in the technical and administrative areas; reimbursable financing to productive NGOs' projects and resources to finance social and environmental NGOs' projects; subcontracts for specific consultancies on workshop contents and materials; in-service training; and hardware and software for information processing and telecommunications, training and office equipment.

Financial data

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Personnel	380 100
Subcontract	280 700
Training	107 000
Equipment	79 600
Miscellaneous	38 000
Total	885 400

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2/ National Development Plan 1989-1994. SPP, May 1989, p. 129